

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PA-01 INR-01 INRE-00 /005 W
----- 062246

P R 151415 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 1104
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
USINT CAIRO BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2996

CURRENT REACTION, ATTN IOR/ M, IBS, IPS, INE

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: U. S. ARMS TO ISRAEL

1. REPORTED DECISION BY U. S. TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH
ADDITIONAL PHANTOMS AND SKYHAWKS WIDELY REPORTED,
CRITICIZED BY SEVERAL PAPERS. INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR
WONDERED WHETHER " IT WAS MERE COINCIDENCE THAT EBAN MADE
HIS STATEMENT ABOUT LEBANON AT TIME WHEN U. S. DECIDED TO
SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH ADDITIONAL JETS LIKE THOSE WHICH HAVE
BEEN SPREADING ' CIVILIZATION' THROUGH DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION... IS IT TRUE THAT EBAN' S STATEMENTS, THROUGH
IN NEW FORM, PAVE WAY FOR ISRAELI ATTACK AGAINST LEBANON
UNDER USUAL PRETEXT THAT IT IS ATTACK AGAINST PALESTINE
IN LEBANON? IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT PREPARATION FOR ATTACK,
IF IT DOES TAKE PLACE, COMES THIS TIME FROM TWO SOURCES:
TRADITIONAL ISRAELI SOURCE, EVEN THOUGH UNDER NEW PRETEXT,
AND U. S. SOURCE WHICH OFTEN USED TO CAUTION IN ORDER TO
PREVENT (ATTACK) AND THEN INTERVENE IN ORDER TO STOP (IT)."

2. CONSERVATIVE AL HAYAT WONDERED " WHAT JUSTIFICATION
THERE IS FOR THIS U. S. BACKING OF ISRAEL' S ARMED FORCES WHILE
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IT IS, AS ADMITTED BY ISRAELIS THEMSELVES, COMPLETELY SUPERIOR TO ARAB ARMED FORCES?" STRANGEST JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS BACKING, AS GIVEN BY ZIONIST SOURCES, SAID AL HAYAT, IS THAT " IT MIGHT PERSUADE ISRAEL TO PURSUE MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD FORTHCOMING U. S. PEACE INITIATIVE."

3. PRO- CAIRO AL ANWAR SAW U. S. MOVE IN SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH ADDITIONAL ARMS AS " PROOF THAT U. S. HOPES FOR ESTABLISHING MIDEAST PEACE ARE FALSE... ONE WHO HOPES FOR PEACE TAKES ATTITUDE CONFORMING WITH THIS HOPE. LEAST THAT SHOULD BE DONE IN THIS RESPECT, IS THAT WASHINGTON SUSPEND ITS ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL, BECAUSE ARMS-- WASHINGTON KNOWS THIS WELL-- ARE MAIN CAUSE OF ISRAEL' S INTRANSIGENCE."

4. LEFTIST PRO- CAIRO ASH SHAAB SAID: " WASHINGTON IS TIGHTENING ITS BLOCKADE AROUND ARABS AND LEAVING THEM NO BREATHING OUTLET. YET, IT CLAIMS IT IS TRYING HARD TO MOVE MIDEAST CRISIS FROM PRESENT IMPASSE." ASH SHAAB ENUMERATED U. S. ' PEACE ENDEAVORS' AS " ADDITIONAL 100 JETS TO ISRAEL, PHANTOM ENGINES FOR ISRAELI SUPER- MIRAGES, 50 MILLION DOLLAR AID FOR SETTLEMENT OF NEW IMMIGRANTS, BROAD SMILE BY NIXON-- WIDER THAN USUAL-- WHILE WELCOMING MEIR ALTHOUGH SHE HERSELF HAD SUSPECTED COOL RECEPTION AT LEAST FOLLOWING TRAGEDY OF LIBYAN PLANE. IN ADDITION, U. S. TREASURY SECRETARY TOLD SOVIET OFFICIALS THAT NIXON IS PREPARED TO ISSUE SPECIAL LEGISLATION TO INCREASE VOLUME OF TRADE WITH SOVIETS IF LATTER STOP OBSTRUCTING EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS."

5. INDEPENDENT WEEKLY AL HAWADETH QUOTED FORMER LEBANESE PRESIDENT CHARLES HELOU SAYING IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: " MY OPINION REGARDING MIDEAST PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT HAS NOT CHANGED. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE. EVEN IF U. S. IS SERIOUSLY DESIROUS OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, IT CANNOT IMPOSE IT ON ISRAEL FOR NUMEROUS REASONS. NO U. S. PRESIDENT DARES ANGER ISRAEL FOR ONE DAY BECAUSE ANGERING ISRAEL WOULD AFFECT HIS POLITICAL LIFE ON FOLLOWING DAY BECAUSE OF ISRAEL' S CONTROL OF POLITICAL LIFE AND INFORMATION MEDIA IN U. S... WHEN SECRETARY ROGERS LAUNCHED HIS FIRST PEACE INITIATIVE AND VISITED AREA, PXTOLD ARAB KINGS AND PRESIDENTS AND LEBANESE MINISTERS AND DEPUTIES THAT ROGERS VISIT IS MEANT FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PUBLIC RELATIONS ONLY, TO IMPROVE U. S. RELATIONS WITH STATES

HE IS VISITING." PRESIDENT ADDED, LAUGHING: " IT
SEEMS ROGERS HAS SUCCEEDED IN THIS RESPECT BECAUSE ARAB
TRADE WITH U. S. INCREASED MANYFOLD COMPARED WITH WHAT IT WAS
PRIOR TO 1967."
BUFFUM

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